

19 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Chairman John Stennis, Senate Armed Services Committee

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1. This afternoon [redacted] and I met with Senator Stennis and Mr. Edward Braswell, Chief of Staff, Senate Armed Services Committee, in response to the Senator's request for a briefing on our involvements in Laos [redacted]

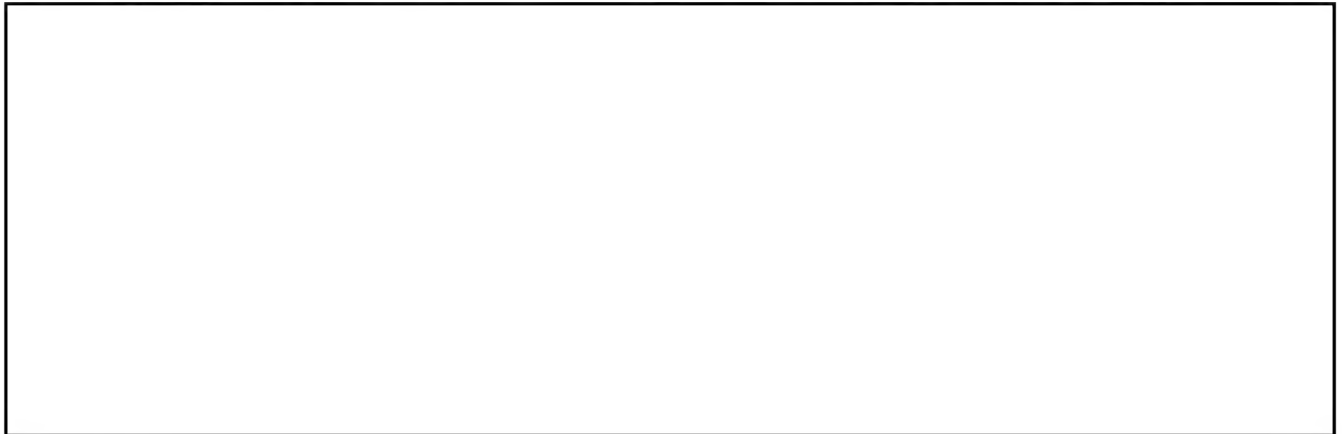
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2. [redacted] briefing on these subjects is described in his memo, attached hereto. The Senator seemed deeply interested and favorably impressed with [redacted] presentation. At the conclusion, I urged the Senator to try to avoid reference to the Agency when the Laos issue comes up for debate on the floor. He said he would do his best. The Senator then brought the discussion around to current conditions in Communist China.

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4. I told the Senator that the Symington request and other matters had caused considerable concern, and that when we were queried by other than our own Subcommittees on matters on which we had not testified before our Subcommittees, we sometimes found ourselves in a bind. I also remarked that we had recently briefed our Senate Appropriations Subcommittee and our House Armed Services Subcommittee on several recent developments and on the Green Beret case and would be glad to cover these and any other matters with Stennis' Subcommittee at his convenience. He said he would like to have a Subcommittee meeting soon but he had recently been completely preoccupied with a number of other responsibilities. However, he said, he would "try to do better" by us in the future, and he realized that a Subcommittee meeting was desirable.

5. As examples of things which I thought his Subcommittee might be interested in, I spoke of developments regarding Soviet ICBM deployment, the identification of a new Soviet bomber, Soviet submarine construction, Soviet naval exercises in the Mediterranean and elsewhere, and military deployments on the Sino/Soviet border. The Senator remarked that Mr. Braswell had passed on to him information from us on some of these points, but he realized that they should be reviewed in detail before the Subcommittee at an early opportunity.

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6. Senator Stennis was particularly complimentary about [redacted] briefing. His sincerity in this regard is illustrated by the fact that despite the obvious pressures he is under and several phone calls, etc., he drew the meeting out to over an hour and a half.

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[redacted]
JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Attachment:

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Original - Subject (via DCI)
2 - Chief FE (via DDP)
1 - Chrono

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